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10 April 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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USSR-NATO: The Soviet notes of 8 April to the US, Britain, and West Germany probably signal the beginning of an intensive Soviet effort to prevent agreement on a NATO nuclear force.

The notes were timed to coincide with consultations by Secretaries Rusk and McNamara with Western European governments. They repeat earlier warnings that West German access to nuclear weapons will compel the USSR and its allies to undertake additional measures to ensure their security "at the necessary level." These notes, however, do not reiterate the point that the USSR would regard West German possession of nuclear weapons as a "direct threat to its own vital national interests."

Moscow is seeking greater leverage to obstruct NATO negotiations by strongly implying that any arrangements for sharing nuclear weapons will preclude an agreement on the nondissemination of such weapons. The note to the US also states flatly that implementation of a NATO nuclear force will "nullify" disarmament negotiations for "at least ten years."

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In addition, Gromyko remarked to Ambassador Kohler on 8 April that Allied nuclear plans would "complicate" a German settlement.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Arab States: Iraqi, Syrian, and UAR leaders meeting in Cairo have succeeded in papering over their sharp differences on the concept of "federal union."

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[redacted] agreement has already been reached on basic principles, and a federal charter is being drawn up. A proclamation on the creation of institutions for the establishment of a loose federal structure is likely to follow.

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[redacted] These steps, nevertheless, will probably not ease the struggle between Nasir and the Baath Party for control of Syria. The UAR Government, as a prerequisite for the current Cairo meetings, has already forced the Syrian Baath to accept an increased measure of participation by pro-Nasirist and other non-Baathist elements in the Syrian Government.

[redacted] Nasir, at the same time, is brushing aside the claims of the new Jordanian cabinet that Jordan is as staunch a proponent of Arab unity as any other Arab state. The clandestine UAR radio said on 8 April that "Husayn is again playing with slogans to protect his collapsing throne."

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Congo: The Congo Parliament continues to give evidence of its dissatisfaction with the Adoula government.

Thirty-five senators have signed a motion of no confidence against the government and may soon submit it to a vote. The motion, which would require only 18 more votes for passage, probably reflects a growing frustration over Adoula's delay in announcing his long-contemplated cabinet reshuffle. The senators may also fear that the premier does not intend to change his government, but, instead, to send Parliament on another vacation.

In the lower house, a motion--almost certain to be passed--has been introduced requiring the government to indicate its intentions regarding the continued imprisonment of former Stanleyville leader Antoine Gizenga. Last December, before it was prorogued, the lower house unanimously resolved that Gizenga should be released in 48 hours.

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Haiti: The expectation of an imminent shake-up in the high command of the Haitian armed forces apparently has prompted renewed military plotting against President Duvalier.

Two general staff officers told the US army attaché on 6 April that their group planned to move against Duvalier before the end of April, with or without US assistance. The officers said a plan was under consideration to assassinate the dictator during a parade celebrating his birthday on 14 April.

The attaché comments that such an attempt is unlikely because the plotters lack adequate weapons and the various dissident groups lack unity. Moreover, officers loyal to Duvalier control key military units.

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West Germany: [There is new pressure among West German parliamentarians for a meeting of the Bundestag in Berlin to symbolize the status of the city as the traditional German capital.]

[Bundestag President Gerstenmaier has informed Foreign Minister Schroeder that he intends to call a plenary session of the Bundestag in Berlin for 20-22 May. It is not expected that this intention would be made public before 22 April.]

[Although the Bundestag formerly held periodic sessions in Berlin, none has taken place since 1959. In July 1960, Khrushchev stated that he would "consider" signing a separate peace treaty with East Germany if the Bundestag met in Berlin.]

[The three Western allies, and presumably the Bonn Foreign Ministry, consider that a Bundestag session in Berlin this spring would be inopportune since it could, for example, disturb US-Soviet exploratory talks and invite Communist interference with Berlin access.]

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*Togo: Tension has developed in Lomé following the arrest on the night of 8-9 April of Labor Minister Kutuklui and other top leaders of the formerly dominant Togolese Unity Party (UT) on charges of plotting against the provisional regime.

The arrests mark the final failure of President Grunitsky's efforts since the January coup to secure the cooperation of Kutuklui and his associates, who represent important younger elements of the Togolese elite. The UT leaders had consistently rejected Grunitsky's terms and had appeared determined to sabotage his single-list plan for the legislative elections now scheduled for 5 May. [redacted]

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Grunitsky's chances of obtaining early recognition by key moderate African states, which seemed to have been improving recently, have probably been damaged by the crackdown on the UT leaders. The exiles can be expected to exploit the arrests as proof that free elections cannot be held in Togo under present circumstances. [redacted]

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NOTES

USSR: Army General Ivan A. Serov may have been replaced as chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) by Colonel General Gleb V. Baklanov, who accompanied Marshal Malinovsky on his recent visit to Indonesia

Serov has not been seen by Western observers since 6 December 1962,

Last identified as commander of the Siberian Military District on 16 October 1962, Baklanov participated in the Battle of Stalingrad and was very active in the Ukrainian party while serving in the Carpathian Military District from 1953 to 1960.

Thailand: Prime Minister Sarit is taking a more direct hand in administering government programs to stem Communist subversion and to improve services among the rural population. Responsibility for border security measures is being transferred from the Interior Ministry to the National Security Organization, and a new Ministry of National Development is to be operating within the next two months. Both of these bodies would function directly under Sarit.

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